

paddy lands in that taluk in the Vadakkekara, Pandanad, Chengannur and Puliur *pakuthies*, out of which 7,000 *paras* were *punja* lands and the remaining double crop *virippu* lands. Though there were rivers on three sides, there were no facilities to take the required water for irrigation purposes from them and to drain away the excess water from the fields during the rainy season. In consequence both the Kanni and Makaram crops suffered heavily. A *thodu* known as Illemattera *thodu* had been once in existence which started from the Pamba river and after passing through the above mentioned tracts joined the Kuttanperur river. It had become completely silted up owing to the annual floods in the Pamba river. The owners of adjacent lands had slowly encroached on the *thodu*, but in consequence of action recently taken under the Land Conservancy Regulation, the encroachments had been removed. The *thodu* was 40 feet wide and covered a length of nearly 5 miles. Its improvement would cost about Rs. 10,000. The Member suggested that, if that *thodu* could be improved, it would serve about 17,000 *paras* of land and the difficulties which they were experiencing would be removed. He also stated that, if necessary, the ryots of the locality were prepared to pay a cess. In conclusion, the Member requested that the Director of Agriculture might be deputed to make the necessary suggestions for the improvement of the *thodu*.

Dewan's reply.—I shall look into the question of the improvement of the canal you have mentioned.

49. Need for establishing a Veterinary Hospital at Kuttattukulam.

Mr. Avira Mathai (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) began by thanking the Government for the considerate manner in which their representations were heard and disposed of. He pointed out that, in point of area and population, Muvattupuzha is one of the important taluks of the State and that the chief occupation of the people was agriculture. It was, therefore, necessary for them to maintain well-bred cattle, especially in view of the extensive cultivation rendered necessary owing to increase of population. The frequency of cattle epidemics had become a source of great hardship to the farmers. Diseases such as *paduwan*, stomach-ache, fever, boil on the neck, foot and mouth disease, etc., were prevalent to a dangerous extent and mortality was considerable. The people of Kuttattukulam found it very difficult to carry diseased cattle to the Pala, Perumpavur or Kottayam Veterinary Hospital, as each of them was 20 or more miles away from that place. The Member, therefore, requested that a veterinary hospital be established at Kuttattukulam.

Dewan's reply.—There are veterinary dispensaries at Pala, Minachil, Kottayam and Perumpavur. Minachil is only 26 miles from Kuttattukulam. The Director of Agriculture is of opinion that there is no necessity for a veterinary hospital or dispensary at Kuttattukulam. He, however, says that he would direct the veterinary officer in charge of the dispensary at Pala to spend one week every month at Kuttattukulam. He now visits that place occasionally. We shall ask him to regularly remain there for 7 days every month.

50. Grievances of the Cardamom Ryots.

Mr. S. P. Sultan Ahamed Badrudin Rowther (Member, Devicoolam Taluk) dwelt at length on the hardships suffered by the poor and ignorant cardamom ryots on account of the dual control exercised by the Revenue and Forest Departments over the Cardamom area included within the Cardamom Hills and Periyar Reserves. The Forest Department solely aimed at the revenue due to it and cared little for the welfare of the ryots and they often framed charges against them, of which, in many cases, they were ignorant until written notices reached them. It was the Revenue Department that collected the revenue from the ryots and it would, therefore, be well if the sole administration of the Cardamom area was vested in that Department, as

it would save trouble to the ryots and some money to the Government in the shape of salaries to the officers of the Forest Department. He, therefore, prayed that either the administrative control over the Cardamom area be vested in the Revenue Department alone or that the collection of revenue be also entrusted to the officers of the Forest Department and the Revenue Department divested of all control. He also prayed for a rule being laid down that all charges framed by the subordinates of the Forest Department below the rank of a Ranger should be referred, in the first instance, to a Revenue Officer not below the rank of a Tahsildar before they were committed to the Criminal Courts.

The Member next stated that Anchanad, situated on the frontier of the State, was 31 miles from Devicolam and 26 miles from Munnar. There was no Police Station at Anchanad and the police jurisdiction over the area was divided between the police stations at Devicolam and Munnar. Udumbanshola also shared the same fate. He, therefore, prayed that a police charging station might be established at both Marayur and Udumbanshola. The Member also stated that much difficulty was experienced for want of a Magistrate's Court at Anchanad and that parties in criminal cases had to walk long distances for conducting their cases. He prayed that an Assistant Tahsildar with Third Class Magisterial powers be appointed at Marayur.

He also presented a memorial signed by the Cardamom ryots containing the following prayers, viz.,

(1) that they be allowed to appropriate for their own use decayed trees found in their gardens, without the permission of the Forest Department;

(2) that they be allowed to graze cattle on the hills without license;

(3) that they be permitted to keep arms without license; and

(4) that the lands which had been occupied without permission and on which buildings had been put up by Cardamom ryots be surveyed in the names of the respective occupants and pattas issued to them.

Dewan's reply.—You say that the control of the Forest Department over the Cardamom Hill reserve should be withdrawn, and that the area should be placed under the Revenue Department. The proposal is being brought up year after year, but it is not an acceptable one. The reserve is a very big one with an area of about 340 square miles. The Revenue Department is not conversant with the technique of forest administration and hence the control and supervision of the Forest Department over this important reserve cannot be taken away. There are good forests within the reserve. It may be that the area other than forests such as the estates could be transferred to the Revenue Department for administration. Such a sort of dual control exists on the plains. What you really want is a good road from Devicolam to Peermade. That will open up the area and give you very good facilities. We are building that road as rapidly as funds would permit and after that is done you will find your present request unnecessary, as your difficulties will disappear.

Member.—The Forest Department charges the people for felling trees within the estates. Forest guards insist on licenses for the grazing of cattle.

Dewan.—How can they demand a fee for cattle-grazing in your estates? If the cattle trespass on the reserve, they will, no doubt, do that.

Member.—They say that the whole area is forest.

Dewan.—That is a different matter. If you put in a complaint, it will be enquired into.

51. Financial help towards the maintenance of the Rubber Mycologist's Station at Mundakayam.

Mr. J. R. Vincent (Member, Mundakayam Planters' Association) said at the outset that he had no hesitation in bringing the subject before the Government